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INTERNATIONAL NOTES

INTERNATIONAL LAW—HOW IT MAY BE ADVANCED—is the general topic of the twelfth annual meeting of the American Society of International Law, to be held in Washington, D. C., April 27-30. Reports will be made by four subcommittees selected to deal with the following topics: (1) Restatement of established rules of international law, especially and in the first instance, in the fields affected by the events of the recent war; (2) Formulation and agreement upon the amendments and additions, if any, to the rules of international law shown to be necessary or useful by the events of the war and the changes in the conditions of international life and intercourse which have followed the war; (3) Reconciliation of divergent views and securing of general agreement upon the rules which have been in dispute before; (4) Consideration of subjects not now adequately regulated by international law, but as to which the interests of international justice require that rules of war shall be declared and accepted. In addition to these reports and the debates following them, there will be a presidential address by Hon. Elihu Root. Other addresses will be given by Secretary Charles E. Hughes; by Hon. Mael de Oliveira Lima, the Brazilian diplomat; by Hon. Robert Lansing, and by James Brown Scott, Esq. President Harding is to welcome the association and its guests to the White House on the 28th and on the 30th a formal banquet at the Shoreham Hotel will be held.

THE NOMINATION OF LORD EDMUND TALBOT, uncle of the Duke of Norfolk, to be the first Viceroy of Ireland under the Government of Ireland act of 1920 naturally has caused much debate as to its inner meaning and its probable effect. He is the first Roman Catholic to sit at "The Castle" as representative of the Throne, and were the Irish Republic's leaders as tractable under compulsion of the Roman Catholic hierarchy as the Nationalists used to be, his appointment might be pacifying in its outcome; but they are not. Since he represents the English Roman Catholic aristocrats, his selection for the post may complicate rather than simplify the situation. Lord Bryce, former British Ambassador to the United States, has turned to the *Times* as an organ for voicing his unqualified criticism of the ministry for not calling a truce and consulting with the Sinn Fein leaders. He says that everywhere the old reputation of Britain for justice and statesmanship is being tarnished and her influence in the world is suffering. As between recognizing insurgency and persisting in the present policy, he prefers the former, and he asserts that a majority of the British people agree with him.

GREECE NEEDS VENIZELLOS AT THE HELM if she is to retain any of the territory ceded to her by the Treaty of Sevres. His sudden departure for Athens from Paris on the 6th followed undeniable proof that the Turkish defeat of the Grecian army invading Asia Minor was overwhelming, and that it might lead to a debacle for which King Constantine would be held responsible by the Greeks in Hellene. When at the conference in London the powers, early in March, decided to undo the Treaty of Sevres and take from Greece most of her gains through

the war, it was an act registering French and Italian hostility and British indifference, the latter being due to the British official's dissatisfaction with the overthrow of Venizelos. So long as he was in power Great Britain could both use him and protect him. With him gone, she was inclined to make terms more favorable to her own general interests in the Near East. Constantine and the Greeks, declining to accept the verdict of the London dissection of the Treaty of Sevres, ordered a military advance against the Turks and for a time had the joy of victory. The powers began to worry lest he really win and thereby complicate their deal with the Turks. In due time, however, with Russian and German officers in charge, the Turks "came back." Whether the Allies will spend a pound or send a soldier to the aid of Greece remains to be seen.

ON APRIL 1 HUNGARY WAS INFORMED by the Council of Ambassadors that any sustained effort to return the Hapsburg dynasty to rule over Hungary would entail forcible action by the Allies. The same day both the "Little Entente" and Italy served similar notice—Italy because of bitter memories of the past, and the new States because of their refusal to have their nascent nationalism imperiled by a return of monarchical prestige. On the 4th the representatives of the Allies, stationed at Budapest, informed Regent Horthy that the "Little Entente" would be allowed to invade Hungary and eject the entire Hapsburg family, should the former king continue to linger within the realm he had recently invaded or should the royalist party's plottings continue to imperil the stability and peace of the situation. A day later, realizing that the odds were against him and his co-conspirators among the Magyar nobility and the Roman Catholic clergy, Charles, with his small entourage, left Hungary for Switzerland, escorted by representatives of the Allies. It is an interesting fact that the organized Hungarians of the United States have filed notice, both at Washington with the State Department and at Budapest with the Foreign Office, protesting against any effort to re-establish a monarchy.

INDEPENDENCE FOR THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, with such reservations as to prior rights of the United States in times of war in which the United States is involved or when the integrity of the island is imperilled, is the program of natives of the islands. Endorsed by the retiring governor-general of the islands, the issue now comes before Congress and the Harding Administration for settlement; and, unless rumor is widely astray, the Filipinos will be disappointed in their hopes. In order to get complete information as to actual conditions on the islands, President Harding has commissioned Major-General Wood, U. S. A., to proceed to the archipelago; and with him will go a former governor-general, W. Cameron Forbes. Four months hence they expect to return with data to be laid before Congress and President Harding. Secretary of War Weeks has intimated, ere they start, that they will report unfavorably on recommendations made by former President Wilson and by Governor-General Harrison. On his return, General Wood will retire from the army and become president of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Opposition to the nomination of Mr. Forbes for this post has been formally registered by the Philippine mission to the United States, with its headquarters in Washington. The reasons assigned are as follows:

In the case of Mr. Forbes, the situation assumes an aspect totally different. He knows that his administration in the Philippines, although lauded by American residents there, has not received the plaudits that Mr. Harrison's administration received from the 10,500,000 Filipinos. It is also a matter of common knowledge that he felt slighted when he was made to resign as governor on the advent of the Wilson régime. He had it in for all the persons responsible for his exit, one of whom is a prominent Filipino leader. There is reason to believe that unto this day he harbors grudge.

Besides, being a member of the Taft school, whose un-deviating gratuitous hypothesis has always been that the Filipinos are "not fit for independence," Mr. Forbes has repeatedly gone on record against Philippine independence; at least, he is for it at a time so remote that it makes his position one in no degree removed from perpetual retention.

RUMANIA'S TREATMENT OF THE HUNGARIAN and Saxon minorities, especially in Transylvania, and notably in connection with their religious rights, has led to a formal protest to the government by the Unitarians of the United States, by the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, by the Baptist World Alliance, and by high officials of the Lutheran Church in the United States. These Christians affirm that the non-orthodox population of Rumania is suffering from deliberate organized repression; that personal and religious liberty is restricted, and that church and school property has been seized and destroyed. That a different attitude by Rumania was formerly pledged by that country undoubtedly is true, as a reading of the treaty signed in December, 1919, will show.

CHILE'S RECENT CONCESSION TO THE KRUPPS of Essen, Germany, of the right to establish in the southern section of the republic a large munition and steel implement plant is not taken by Chile's neighbors as indicating any modification of her admitted real as well as traditional primacy as a militant Latin-American power. Indeed, it is giving alarm to her more pacific neighbors, first, because it has implications dangerous to them; and, second, because it gives to the southern continent an industry, under expert control, of a kind that has played havoc with Europe. Of course, the incident is camouflaged by the fine tale that the works will be equipped to build steamships, agricultural implements, and the like. No capital advances by Chile are asked, nor are any concessions sought for or remission of taxes demanded; but large land and water-power rights have been given to the German capitalists.

MEXICAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR GENERATIONS have owed some of their complexity and variableness to an agrarian problem almost as acute as Russia's. Peonage at one end of the social scale and immense landholdings by a few at the other end have kept the fine Indian stock from progressing toward better standards of living. It was against this abuse and anachronism that President Madero made his fine gesture; and for his idealism he

suffered assassination. It was to perpetuate this economic slavery that Huerta held sway. Carranza began to grasp the nettle in a way to give concern to the holders of vast undeveloped territories, but it has been left to President Obregon and his liberal associates to do things that count. Thus 3,700,000 acres owned by General Luis Terranzas have just been taken over by the government because this Chihuahuan landlord has not established villages, divided the land with settlers, or definitely marked out the limits of his concessions. The administration is not seizing the land by fiat, but, as it claims, is simply enforcing penalties for his failure to keep pledges, pledges that under former régimes were made with no intention of keeping them, because the government could be bought off.

ITALY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS are more militant now than are her foreign complications and policies. And this chiefly because of the vigor with which the "Fascisti" have fought the Communists with Nature's weapons as well as with those of man's devising. Readers of history have been forced to recall the feuds and street brawls of the Guelphs and Ghibellines, the "Montagues and Capulets," fought in the medieval days. The law underlying the rigorous action of the moderates among the Socialists, the Republicans, and the non-Catholic Conservatives who make up the "Fascisti" is that of the *lex talionis*. They represent elements of the population that have grown weary of the anarchy and violence of the Communists, and they are prepared to fight the devil with his own weapons. Violence has begotten violence. Arson has led to arson. Women of both groups fight like Amazons or viragoes. The middle class has grappled with the proletariat and thus far beaten it at its own game. Socialism has been taught that if it is to win it must be in constitutional ways and not by terrorism. Italy has been saved from what Russia has had to undergo. Action has been undertaken that undoubtedly will be reflected in the election of May 19 by a diminished Socialist representation in the national legislature.

ABOLITION OF GOVERNMENTAL CENSORSHIP of radio communications was announced by the Navy Department, at Washington, March 30. It followed a meeting of the Cabinet in which Assistant Secretary Roosevelt sat. The text of the announcement contains the following significant statements:

The department feels that censorship is repugnant to the ideas and concepts of the American people, except in times of national emergency. It is furthermore felt that censorship, even of a limited nature, implies a departmental sponsorship for those messages which are permitted to be sent.

On account of the above, and in view of the fact that no national emergency exists at this time, the department hereby removes all restrictions over the press and other commercial messages sent by the naval radio, and wishes it further understood that by doing this it disclaims all sponsorship for any messages thus sent.

A few days prior to issuing this order Japanese journalists in Washington had been refused use of the service to transmit news indicating the American attitude to-

ward naval expansion. The "normal" attitude of the department, now proclaimed, will facilitate commercial intercourse, inasmuch as regular cable service across the Pacific is now inadequate to meet the simultaneous demands of trade and journalism.

ANGLO-AMERICAN DIFFERENCES during the first years of the war with Germany were acute, especially on mooted issues of detention of shipping, goods, mail, and persons by British naval and civilian authorities. Pressure from the State Department on Great Britain for settlement of these disputes and for compensation of persons and corporations suffering losses naturally diminished after the United States entered the war and the two nations became "associated" powers with a common aim. Correspondence has now been renewed, and the text of the letters sent by Secretary Colby during his service at the State Department has been disclosed. To date no answer has come from the British Government to a letter which he sent last August, which read as follows:

During the period of neutrality and subsequent belligerency of this government, it did not seem appropriate to press for an adjustment of claims for losses (by Americans). I should be pleased to know if His Majesty's Government now desires to initiate suitable proceedings for mutual adjustment and satisfaction of all such claims.

AUSTRIA'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PLIGHT, as the result of the stripping of her territory by the Treaty of St. Germain, has been known to the Allies for many months, and to the world at large for an equal time, thanks to the reports of dispassionate British and American observers engaged in "relief work"; but not until March 18 was there any formal recognition by the victors that they had any moral responsibility for the famine and destitution they had wrought. On that date the British Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan had decided to release for a period of years their liens on the remnant of the old Austria-Hungarian State. These releases include cost of armies of the occupation, credit bonds, and reparation penalties imposed by the Treaty of St. Germain. The details of adjustment of the situation under the new agreement are to be fixed finally by the financial committee of the League of Nations, but they will follow in the main the plan worked out by Ter Meulen, the Dutch financial expert. Once this plan begins to operate, Austria can begin to establish credits abroad and coal, food, and raw materials can begin to flow in. Austria, in turn, will pledge public assets, such as customs dues, salt, and tobacco taxes and revenues from her railways. That Austria, from within, is not slow to provide self-help is shown that direct taxation from July, 1920, to date has increased eightfold and customs are 70 times what they used to be. This attitude of willingness to recuperate from within by imposition of burdens no doubt has done much to mitigate the severity of the Allies' previous demands.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS IN ITS PRESIDENT and his advisers as able a group of statesmen as any nation in Europe. Unhampered by traditions, fully aware of the

political and social evolution of the most advanced nations of the world in their pre-war days, and committed wholly to the largest measure of racial, religious, and political toleration, the new republic goes on its way. To illustrate: at a time when even Switzerland is joining the nations of Europe in a form of nationalism which extols "protection" of commerce and industry by raising tariff rates higher, Czechoslovakia announces that it will abolish all restrictions on foreign and domestic commerce. Freedom in the realm of economics is to be contemporaneous with liberty in the realm of politics. It is needless to say that the experiment will be watched closely, not only by neighboring States—some old and some new—but by the world at large.

THE MANDATE FOR MESOPOTAMIA, given to Great Britain by the League of Nations, is on principle questioned by the United States, which contends that in so far as America is concerned all the mandates of the League are of none effect, because the United States was not a party to their issuance. But, in addition to this general attitude of independent criticism, the United States has formally protested against what it has believed to be is the evident intention of the British to monopolize use of the oil resources of the region. The precise grounds of this protest will be found in Secretary Colby's letter of November 30 (see pages 390-392, December, 1920, *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*). Now Great Britain, in a communication received by the State Department, March 1, and signed by Earl Curzon, replies that pre-war understandings and compacts make it difficult for her to adopt the principle of equality of opportunity in mandated territory, to which principle, as a working rule for future action, she is willing to adhere. But she also points out that the United States has claimed special rights to oil output in Mexico, Haiti, and San Domingo, and that in the Philippines the United States has provided for a "preferred position" of her oil explorers and producers. In short, Great Britain says to the United States that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and that he who would preach equality must also practice it.

IN PALESTINE BRITISH POLITICAL AUTHORITY of a "trustee" sort may dominate, but it is quite certain that American influence of a commercial and banking nature will not be lacking. Already the Jews of the United States are being invited by their most influential leaders to take stock in a company with a capitalization of \$5,000,000, two-fifths of which already has been subscribed. It offers a 6 per cent return on the investment and is to be used, under the direction of experts, to promote the industries of the "Holy Land." To be more specific, modern factory lofts are to be built, water-power is to be developed, large-scale purchases of machinery and raw materials are to be facilitated, and credit on long-time loans is to be furnished. Signs are not lacking that, in addition to Arab hostility, there also is marked disinclination among the long-established Jews of the "Holy Land" to co-operate heartily with the incoming "Zionists" with their plans for "modernizing" of the new State; and it is taking all the combined tact and power of the governor to keep the two elements from open clashing.